



Immunization Information Systems (IIS)



Vaccine National Drug Code (NDC)

The goal of these pages is to facilitate the use of NDC to identify vaccines. The purpose of the NDC crosswalk tables is to show the relationships of vaccine primary and secondary packaging NDCs and provide related information for use as reference data for solutions that leverage NDCs. The NDC on vaccine primary packaging differs from the NDC on the vaccine secondary packaging.

The following links give access to the NDC code tables.

- **NDC Lookup Crosswalk**
NDC unit of use and unit of sale relationships with supporting information
- **NDC Table Access**
Data tables for download

National Drug Code Background

NDCs are assigned by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and serve as universal product identifiers for human drugs. These codes indicate the product (FDA Product Code), the manufacturer or packager (FDA Labeler Code), and the packaging (e.g. 5 dose vial). The format of these codes varies within each component (4-4-2, 5-3-2, or 5-4-1). The combinations of these components have 10 numbers. In many uses, these 3 components are normalized to a consistent pattern (5-4-2) with dashes between components. A component is left-padded with zero (0) to adjust the size. These more familiar codes are labeled NDC11 in these pages.

Primary and Secondary Packaging NDC

In most cases, there are separate NDCs for the Unit of Use (primary) and Unit of Sale (secondary) packaging of a vaccine. That is, the syringe that contains the vaccine has one NDC and the carton of 10 syringes has a different NDC.

Primary package: The container (i.e. vial or syringe) that holds the vaccine. This is generally referred to as the vaccine's Unit of Use.

Secondary package: The container or packaging that holds the primary packaging. For example, a carton of 5 syringes. This is generally referred to as Unit of Sale or a saleable unit.

Some vaccines (primary package) contain multiple components (e.g. lyophilized agent and diluent agent). The individual components of a multi-component vaccine are each assigned a unique NDC. The NDCs of the individual components differ from the NDC of the secondary packaging.

Each of these component packages (unit of use) will be linked to the unit of sale package.

Questions regarding these tables should be directed to the IIS Technical Assistance Team (or use

mailing address).

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